

- (b) treating said sample of cerebrospinal fluid with at least one monoclonal antibody, said at least one monoclonal antibody having been raised against an axonally-derived protein selected from the group consisting of isoforms of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 and derivatives and fragments thereof; and
- (c) detecting the presence of said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody.

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method according to claim [16] 14 wherein said at least one isoform of said tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivatives thereof is a fragment of said tau protein demonstrating an apparent molecular weight less than 50 kDa.

Please rewrite claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 17 wherein said at least one tau protein fragment comprises the sequence from serine ¹⁹⁹ to serine ³⁹⁶ of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivatives thereof.

Please rewrite claim 24 as follows:

24. (Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody is a fragment of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivatives thereof which is detected through gel electrophoresis and which gives rise to an electrophoresis gel demonstrating multiple protein bands with

apparent molecular weights less than 50 kDa.

Please rewrite claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 24 wherein said axonally-derived protein bound to said at least one monoclonal antibody is a fragment of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivatives thereof which is detected through gel electrophoresis and which gives rise to an electrophoresis gel demonstrating multiple protein bands with apparent molecular weights from about 30 to 50 kDa.

Please rewrite claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein the ELISA employs monoclonal antibodies recognizing tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivatives thereof present in human cerebrospinal fluid.

Please cancel claim 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Claims 14 – 20 and 23 – 30 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 16 and 28 have been cancelled.

Claims 14, 17, 19, 24, 25 and 27 have been amended.

As a result of the foregoing Amendment, claims 14, 15, 17 – 20 and 23 – 27, 29 and 30 remain pending in the above-identified application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Rejection of Claims 16-20, 25 and 27-29